



Waterbird Conservation Council Summary of Committee 2004 Workplans

March 2004

The Waterbird Conservation Council (Council) is the keeper of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP) and has responsibility for coordinating, supporting, and communicating implementation of NAWCP, other waterbird plans, updating the plans, and facilitating actions for waterbird conservation throughout the Plan area. The Council is structured to accomplish its work through seven working committees, which report to an Executive Committee. *Chair of Executive Committee: Katharine Parsons.*

Technical Services Committee

Role: To provide leadership and guidance on a number of different technical topics of interest to the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas initiative. The Committee will focus on the most pressing needs identified in the NAWCP, but will also be positioned to provide input on other technical issues as they emerge. *Chair: Melanie Steinkamp*

- Provide guidance on setting resource goals (population and habitat objectives) for regional working groups.
- Re-start continental marshbird planning.
- Develop a strategy for large scale monitoring of waterbirds.
- Respond to requests for input or endorsement.

Regional Planning and Implementation Committee

Role: To ensure effective waterbird conservation planning and implementation, based on the belief that conservation action is often best planned and carried out on a regional basis with specific consideration to both political realities and ecological zones. *Chair: Paul Schmidt*

- Seek the completion of all regional plans currently underway by end of year.
- Encourage the commencement of regional planning efforts in all remaining regions.
- Provide guidance to facilitate the transition from regional planning to implementation.
- Perform a review across regional plans to inform the revision of the continental plan in December 2004.

Communications Committee

Role: To provide communication-related services to support the work of the Council, drawing on its expertise and networks to develop the tools and means of reaching out to target groups with selected messages. Also, to lead a general waterbird outreach campaign built around a positive theme and message. *Chair: Frank Gill*

- Develop a Communications Plan for the positive waterbird message campaign.
- Pilot one significant element from the above Communications Plan.
- Develop a Communications Plan for a “Petrels and People” project, an initiative focusing on the highly imperiled seabirds identified in the NAWCP.



Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

Resources Committee

Role: To acquire resources to fund the work of the Council and support the implementation of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. *Chair: Pat Patterson*

- Develop a plan for fund-raising.
- Interact with Bird Funding Coalition and US NABCI Federal Agency Subcommittee to increase resources for bird conservation generally.

International Committee

Role: To foster the advancement of the Plan in a range-wide manner and especially to engage regions in Latin America and the Caribbean. *Chair: Ian Davidson*

- Document the current state of information on the activities that are or may impact waterbird conservation in the hemisphere.
- Summarize the status of all waterbird species and their habitats in the hemisphere.
- Identify resources to implement international aspects of the Plan.
- Raise international awareness of waterbird conservation issues throughout the Americas.

Conservation Action Committee

Role: To foster awareness and actions to assure the conservation of waterbird species. Emphasis will be given to those species listed as Highly Imperiled or of High Concern. Pressing conservation issues will be addressed in a pro-active manner. *Chair: Gerald Winegrad*

- Analyze, evaluate, and prioritize the threats facing the 11 species of seabirds comprising the NAWCP's Highly Imperiled species list.
- Develop a strategy for addressing the top-priority threats identified above, including non-native predators on seabird breeding islands and fisheries-related mortality.
- Work with members of the International Committee and others to ensure that strategies include relevant actions and means beyond U.S.-oriented policies and audiences.
- To foster implementation of the NAWCP, support increased Congressional appropriations for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and other Congressional funding sources, gain additional funding through other sources, and coordinate such activities with the Council's Resources Committee.

Nominations Committee

Role: Ensure the on-going vigor of the Council, by identifying and recruiting new members to Council to provide broad and appropriate representation of the many conservation interests (geographical, taxonomic, thematic) of the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas Initiative. In addition, facilitate active participation of members and promotes the benefits accruing to members from Council membership. *Chair: Katharine Parsons*

- Documentation of protocols (policies, timetable, terms of reference, etc) used to identify and recruit new Council members to be submitted to Executive Committee and full Council for approval.
- Two slates of nominees for Council membership prepared and submitted to the Executive Committee and full Council (Mar, Sep).
- Directory of Council members to be posted on website of Waterbird Conservation for the Americas Initiative
- Strategic plan for enhancing membership, participation and efficacy of Council for consideration of Council.